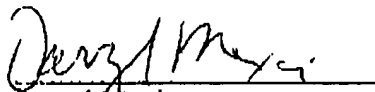AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/674,620

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. The amendment

merely alters the dependency of certain of the claims, and does not add any new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 27, 2001

AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/674,620

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1,

wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit utilizes for determination the

positive or negative polarization of said distribution.

4. (Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1,

wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit determines picture elements to be

edge picture elements if the distribution in said range of greater differences is dominant and if

said distribution is polarized positively or negatively.

5. (Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 1,

wherein said image data retouching unit executes sharpening of images if said object picture

elements are determined to be edge picture elements.

7. (Twice Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 4~~ Claim

1, wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit determines picture elements to be

moiré picture elements if the distribution in said range of smaller differences is dominant and if

said distribution is polarized positively or negatively.

8. (Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 7~~ Claim 1,

wherein said image data retouching unit executes smoothing of images if said object picture

elements are determined to be moiré picture elements.

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10. (Twice Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 9~~

Claim 1, wherein said image data retouching unit obtains a retouching value for the luminance

value of said image data, and adds the retouching value to the tone values of element colors to

retouch the image data.

11. (Twice Amended)   An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in ~~Claim 10~~

Claim 1, wherein:

in retouching the image data of the picture elements, an image data attribute specifying

unit for acquiring specification of the attribute of image data to be handled is caused to execute

the function thereof, and

said image data retouching unit is caused to execute the function thereof on the basis of

the image data having the attribute acquired by said image data attribute specifying unit.